Normalisation of relations with Pakistan and Bangladesh

1534. SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether he held talks with his counterparts from Pakistan and Bangladesh regarding normalisation of relations between India and those countries while he was in Kathmandu for the inauguration of SAARC Secretariat; and

(b) if so, the outcome of the talks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (b) During the External Affairs Minister's visit to Kathmandu for the inauguration of the SAARC Secretariat from January 15 to 18, 1987 he met the Foreign Ministers of Pakistan and Bangladesh, as well as the Foreign Ministers of the other SAARC countries. During these talks, there was a general exchange of views regarding bilateral relations.

Terrorist Activities in Punjab

1535. SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any positive evidence regarding foreign involvement in the terrorist activities in Punjab;

(b) if so, whether Government would come out with a white paper on this matter; and

(c) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (c) While Government have information about the foreign involvement in the terrorist activities in Punjab, it is not considered necessary to publish a white paper in that regard.

Boosting of Exports to West European Countries

1536. SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the measures taken by Government to boost exports of different commodities to the West European countries; and

(b) the steps being taken to improve the quality of products to maintain delivery schedules and to prevent unfair trade practices in the exports?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER): (a) Besides, seeking improved access for Indian exports to the countries in West Europe, from member nations and the EEC, various trade promotion measures for export production besides others such as participation in exhibitions and trade fairs, exchange of delegations Buyer-Seller Meets are undertaken on a continuing basis.

(b) In addition to helping trade and industry in export production through different promotional programmes, a number of products have been brought under the ambit of compulsory pre-shipment inspection. Such notified products cannot be exported unless certified by a designated authority. Cases of unfair trade practices coming to the notice of Government are investigated through appropriate authorities and suitable remedial action taken to prevent recurrence.

Problems in engineering exports

1537. SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have prepared any scheme to ensure that India's engineering exports do not attract penal duty provisions abroad; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER): (a) and (b) In framing schemes for export in-

centives and promotion, Government takes into account international norms and rules as accepted by us, with a view to ensuring that the chances of levy of anti-dumping and countervailing duties on our exports by the Governments of the importing countries are minimised.

Unemployment

1538. SHRI KALPNATH RAI: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) what was the backlog of unemployment at the begining of the present Five Year Plan;

(b) the employment generated during the last two years of the present Five Year Plan and how much of the backlog was cleared during these two years; and

(c) the details of schemes under implementation to generate more employment and to solve the problem of unemployment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) The backlog of unemployment at the beginning of the Seventh Five Year Plan was 9.2 million.

(b) Information is not available.

(c) The details of schemes under implementation for generation of more employment are given in the Seventh Five Year Plan document.

Conversion of Tribals in Tripura

1539. SHRI KALPNATH RAI:
SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether his attention has been drawn to a report which appeared in the 'Hindustan Times' of December 23, 1986 about a sudden spurt in conversion to Christianity of tribals in Tripura;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof with percentage of tribals converted during the year 1984—86 (year-wise); and

(c) what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As per the information received from Government of Tripura, the details of tribals converted into Christianity are as follows:

Total population of Tribals as per 1981 census—5,83,920;

Conversion:

1984—290

1985—303

1986—328.

(c) The matter in fact concerns the State Government of Tripura. Public order is primarily the State's concern. So far as conversion is concerned, Article 25 of the Constitution of India inter-alia provides that all persons are entitled freely to profess, practise and propagate religion provided that exercise of such right does not jeopardize public order, morality and health of other citizens and does not infringe the other provisions relating to Fundamental rights contained in Part III of the Constitution.

दैनिक वेतन पर काम करने वाले मजदूर

1540. श्री सूरज प्रसाद : क्या श्रम मंत्री 4 नवम्बर, 1986 को राज्य सभा में अतारांकित प्रश्न 95 के दिए गए उत्तर को देखेंगे और यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) जून, 1984 में दिल्ली और नई दिल्ली स्थित केन्द्रीय सरकार के लियों तथा दिल्ली नगर निगम में दैनिक वेतन पर काम करने वाले कर्मचारियों के वेतन में संशोधन किए जाने के बाद से